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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1906.

## Mobs and the Courts.

No great importance can be claimed for  
the recent decision of the Supreme Court  
of the United States in the Chattanooga  
lynching case. As we interpret that opinion,  
the highest judicial authority in the  
land merely has reaffirmed the well-  
established principle that when an individual  
or a community disregards the order  
of a court the offense of contempt is  
committed.

In the case at bar, Associate Justice  
Harlan had issued a stay of execution on  
the application of the lawyer of the negro  
who became the victim of mob violence.  
The stay was issued on the theory that  
some constitutional right of the negro had  
been violated by the courts of Tennessee,  
in which he had been convicted of a  
felony and sentenced to be hanged.

A few hours after the news of Justice Harlan's  
action reached Chattanooga a mob  
stormed the jail, seized Sheriff Shipps,  
locked him in a room of the jail, and then  
proceeded to drag the convicted negro  
from his cell and lynch him. In its decision  
the other day, the Supreme Court holds  
that not only twenty-six members  
of the mob who are alleged to have been  
identified committed the grave offense of  
contempt, but that also the luckless sheriff  
is equally guilty of that offense.

The punishment of these persons has not yet  
been adjudged by the court, though that  
it will be severe we have no doubt.

That the Supreme Court's action will have  
a deterrent effect upon the fierce  
spirit of mob violence we cannot see.  
In most cases—perhaps nine out of ten—mobs  
do their work before their victims are  
brought under the regular forms of the  
law. There has never been any doubt of  
the double nature of the crime when a  
mob has taken the victim from the keeping  
of the officers of the law and lynched him.  
Nor can it be claimed that the opinion of  
the Supreme Court of the United States  
was needed to declare mobs to be in  
contempt of court when a prisoner, convicted  
or awaiting trial after indictment, is forcibly  
taken from his place of confinement and  
slain. Rare, indeed, are the instances  
in which after a stay of execution by the  
Supreme Court has been issued a convicted  
felon is lynched.

Obviously the remedy for mob violence  
in the United States has not yet been  
found. Although lynching in various parts  
of the country is of frequent occurrence,  
the spirit which incites this form of disregard  
of law is not as rife as formerly. In  
every section of the nation there is a  
more wholesome respect for law and order  
procedure than ever before. The mandates  
of the courts are obeyed with more care.  
Mob violence is not the result of disrespect  
of the law or want of confidence in the  
proper action of the courts. It is merely  
the expression of the impatience  
of an element of the community with the  
prospect of delay in having punishment  
meted out to the perpetrators of crimes  
of a particularly heinous character. It  
goes without saying, of course, that in  
most instances dangerous and lawless elements  
constitute the greater portion of the  
mobs, and it is also indisputable that  
in some cases these irresponsible elements  
slay with blind and infuriated fury. But  
court decrees, even those of the august  
tribunal in Washington, cannot, un-  
labeled, stay this sort of fury.

Chancellor Day says it is "impertinent"  
in Congress to attempt to regulate great  
fortunes. At least, it seems a woful  
waste of time.

## Shorter Hours for Railroad Men.

We cannot always follow Senator La  
Follette in his multitudinous vagaries, but  
public sentiment will unquestionably sustain  
him in his effort to secure legislation  
which will limit the hours of continuous  
labor for railroad men. It seems impos-  
sible to believe that many Senators re-  
sponding to the measure are actuated by  
cause it may affect Western railroads  
with long hauls, where a change of train-  
men would work inconvenience and delay.

Senator La Follette's bill proposes to  
limit the number of hours of continuous  
labor to sixteen. Surely no man ought to  
be compelled to work longer than sixteen  
hours on a stretch, especially in an occu-  
pation where so much of human life and  
property is dependent upon absolute fidelity  
and attention. It is impossible to expect  
men to have all their senses alert and  
responsive if they have been subjected  
to a prolonged and exhaustive strain.  
In fact, an innumerable series of  
accidents have been unquestionably due  
to the fact that an engineer or a brake-  
man or an operator has been in a condition  
where it was physically impossible for  
him to be responsible for his actions.

Human nature can stand only a certain  
amount of fatigue. When that limit has  
been reached, rest is absolutely necessary.  
This is a fact so potent that it seems  
surprising that any one, especially men  
who are entrusted with authority to  
legislate, should regard the convenience  
of the railroads as paramount to the  
safety of the traveling public. Experience  
has shown that this safety, which ought  
to be the principal concern of the rail-  
road companies, is too often sacrificed in  
a desire to economize. Men are made to  
work and work and work, under contin-  
uous strain and with loss of sleep, until  
they cannot remember the orders upon  
which so much depends. If the railroads  
will not remedy this condition volun-  
tarily, they should be compelled by law  
to restrict the hours of labor.

A humane regard for others would suggest  
the wisdom of the proposed law. It  
need not rest, however, upon this senti-

mental consideration. It is a necessary  
step toward removing every possible  
jeopardy of travel.

Never mind! Your flat pocketbook is a  
flattering testimonial to the effect that  
your heart is in the right place.

## A New View of Centralization.

Secretary Root, in the widely discussed  
address delivered by him before the  
Pennsylvania Society at its New York  
dinner, summed up in a few sentences  
the national tendencies toward the oblit-  
eration of State lines and the decrease of  
State power as compared with national  
power. These tendencies, as viewed by  
Mr. Root, are centripetal rather than cen-  
trifugal; that is to say, they operate  
by external pressure to increase the func-  
tions of the central government, so that  
the political evolution he described is not  
a conscious and purposeful aggrandizement  
of the Federal power, dictated from  
Washington, but a normal response  
to the economic and political forces from  
every section of the Union, and from the  
growing mass of the people, and naturally  
entire out of our social, commercial, and  
industrial development.

This interpretation of the growth of  
Federal power differs from that of many  
of Mr. Root's critics, who profess to see  
in the course of events in Washington the  
working out of an intentional design to  
build up a strongly centralized govern-  
ment upon the wreckage of State rights.  
Mr. Root disavows, for himself, any such  
revolutionary purpose, his New York ad-  
dress containing, in fact, an appeal to  
the States to make larger use of their  
powers to avoid the necessity of involv-  
ing Federal authority to accomplish what  
the States could do if they would.

Congressman Tawney threw an interest-  
ing sidelight on Mr. Root's views, as  
well as on the whole question of increas-  
ing Federal powers, by the interview  
published in this paper on Wednesday. Mr.  
Tawney, who is the Secretary of State  
as saying that the States should not ask  
the Federal government to take up so  
many local matters, and goes on to ex-  
press his own belief that the States are  
tending more and more to surrender powers  
heretofore jealously guarded whenever  
ever by such surrender an appropriation  
may be obtained from the Federal Treasury  
for expenses which, Mr. Tawney  
thinks, the States should themselves meet.

Thus the boot appears to be on the  
other foot when Uncle Sam can be in-  
duced to meet the expense-account. The  
question of State rights disappears, as  
Mr. Tawney says, in the tendency to en-  
croach on the Federal Treasury. So Mr.  
Tawney would check this tendency, and  
save the Federal government from absor-  
bing all the functions the States, through  
their representatives in Congress, are  
quite willing to surrender. From this point  
of view, Mr. Root's appeal to the States  
to uphold their Statehood gains a new  
significance. The doctrine of State rights  
must be in a bad way when it has to be  
braced up by such Federalists as Secretary  
Root and Mr. Tawney.

After long and exhaustive investigation,  
it has been determined that the car  
shortage exists because there are not  
enough cars. Doesn't that lift a load of  
uncertainty from your mind?

## Good Citizens.

Washington is extremely fortunate in the  
Hebrew citizenship which is located  
here.

There is no city in the country where  
the Hebrews are so generally respected,  
nor where they so universally deserve  
high consideration. It is, perhaps, un-  
necessary to even assert this fact, much  
less emphasize it; and yet the recent ut-  
terances of Rabbi Stern and Rabbi Simon  
make the observation all the more appro-  
priate. In New York there has been some  
discussion of the custom of holding  
Christmas entertainments in the public  
schools. Some attempts have been made  
here to create a division of opinion upon  
the same ground that causes opposition  
in New York, viz., that Jewish children  
ought not to be compelled to participate  
in a celebration which is at variance with  
their faith. It would have been an easy  
matter to fan the discussion into a  
blaze in Washington. An intemperate  
word, a hasty or ill-considered action  
would have given a simple matter the  
dignity of an issue, and no one can  
tell what harm might have resulted.

In treating the question in a sensible  
and dignified manner, declining to invoke  
a quarrel or fill the newspapers with sen-  
sational utterances, Rabbi Stern and  
Rabbi Simon have shown their most ex-  
cellent judgment. They content them-  
selves with saying that conditions here  
are very different from New York,  
where, on the east side, the Jewish child-  
ren form a large majority of each  
school's pupils; and, in addition, there  
can be no possible objection to an enter-  
tainment which does not partake of a reli-  
gious character, inasmuch as even the  
Jews do not wholly ignore the kindly  
sentiments which the Christmas season  
inspires. In other words, they treat the  
matter with tact and appreciation, sacri-  
ficing nothing to their convictions, and yet  
avoiding a needless and useless con-  
troversy. They do not demand special con-  
sideration for Jewish children, but it is  
easy to believe that when they are them-  
selves considerate, the children of their  
race will receive just and sympathetic  
treatment in the public schools.

It is no wonder that the members of the  
Washington Hebrew Congregation are  
such good citizens—upright, moral, indus-  
trious, law-abiding, and progressive—who  
they are under the tutelage of broad-  
minded and intelligent men like Rabbi  
Stern and Rabbi Simon.

A street car magazine in one of the  
smaller New York cities has publicly ad-  
mitted the right of the city to discuss  
with the car line the question of 3-cent  
fares. If this man ever fails in the  
street car business he can make a fortune  
in a dime museum as a freak.

## The Gas Question.

That something is radically wrong with  
the gas-lighting of the District of Colum-  
bia there has been enough public agita-  
tion plainly to show. It is not a thing of  
the moment—it is no sudden rise of disat-  
isfaction. The records show that it has  
been going on for years, and that, at cer-  
tain periods, as the public—usually patient  
and long-suffering—raised its voice in  
complaint, the monopolists, who have  
made vast fortunes out of the service of  
gas to the citizens of the District, have  
thought it wise to moderate their de-  
mands. An instance in point is the reduc-  
tion now announced at Georgetown.

Evidence enough has been produced be-  
fore Congressional committees and before  
special committees of the Washington  
Board of Trade to show that the profits  
taken from the people of the District for  
the privilege of serving them with gas  
have been simply enormous. So large have  
they been, in fact, that the present com-  
pany—granted a monopoly by act of Con-  
gress—has been ashamed to declare the  
true dividends on the money invested, and  
has sought by devious ways to hide the  
true state of affairs from the public.

Is it surprising that the sentiment for  
public ownership, advocated by the

Washington Board of Trade only a few  
years ago, is growing? Washington is a  
conservative city. Nobody here wants to  
see property confiscated or capital de-  
prived of its fair return. This newspaper  
would be quick to denounce any move-  
ment toward that end. It stands for  
conservatism. Fair dealing means con-  
servatism.

The Washington Gaslight Company  
holds an immensely valuable franchise—  
an exclusive franchise, granting it the  
use of public streets. It operates under  
a charter by Congress. In giving this  
charter, Congress expressly reserved the  
right to amend or repeal it. Congress has  
the unquestioned right to demand an ac-  
counting—to know all the details of the  
gas company's business; how much it is  
earning; the amount of its actual capital,  
and how issued. There is nothing radical  
in this demand. It is a simple matter of  
business, in the line of conservative busi-  
ness policy. Congress owes it to this  
community to get at the facts. If it  
really costs more to manufacture gas  
here than in other cities—if there is good  
reason why we should pay more for the  
people of other cities are paying—let the  
public have some trustworthy information  
on the subject. The arguments put  
forth by the gas company's special  
pleaders against a reduction from \$1.25  
to \$1 are the same arguments heard now.  
Have conditions really changed? Should  
not the gas company be compelled to  
make an annual report?

There are other public utility corpora-  
tions in Washington, but not one of them  
at this time has anything in common  
with the Washington Gaslight Company.  
They are, we believe, well managed and  
a credit to the Capital. There is no out-  
cry against them save in minor matters  
of better schedules and an extension of  
the transfer right. The fact that the city  
has a superior street railway system,  
taken as a whole, is freely recognized  
by Washington people. It will be a most  
shortsighted policy, therefore, if the  
street railway companies allow them-  
selves to become aligned against the peo-  
ple in the movement for cheaper gas.  
We credit them with too much wisdom  
for that. They cannot afford it.

A Massachusetts boy seventeen years  
of age is 5 feet and 11 inches tall, and has  
a lung capacity of 300 cubic inches. That  
boy is certainly destined to come to Con-  
gress and save the country some day.

Mr. Hearst came home from Mexico in  
a hurry when he learned that Mr. August  
Belmont had been to Washington for the  
purpose of consulting with Secretary  
Crawley as to the currency question and  
other things in which the welfare of the  
"common people" is involved.

Mr. Roosevelt says they serve liquid  
quinine at dinner in Panama. Perhaps  
Mr. Poulitney Bigelow simply got an over-  
dose.

A St. Louis baby just nine months old  
talks with ease, and has acquired quite  
a vocabulary. Why, surely, the child  
wasted on telegraph tolls telling that it  
is a girl is hard to understand.

Of course, a great ice crop is being  
harvested, but the failure of the crop  
will be reported on schedule time next  
summer, for all of that.

A stage coach was held up in New  
Jersey the other day. New Jersey is  
the State that is responsible for most of  
the financial and commercial hold-ups  
throughout the land.

A Cincinnati firm with \$300,000 capital  
has embarked in the egg business. It  
cannot lay in much of a stock with that  
capital.

Miner Hicks, rescued after fifteen days  
of heroic struggle upon the part of his  
friends, is going on the vaudeville stage.  
That certainly is a shabby reward for his  
friends' trouble.

A man named Boozie is conducting a  
great total abstinence campaign out  
West, while the Earl and Countess of  
Tankerville are doing the same thing in  
England. What's in a name, after all?

Mr. Carnegie is only partly right when  
he says an income tax would make liars  
of us all. It would only broaden the field  
for the crowd that already has the art  
of perjury down pretty fine.

Naturally, South Dakota has easy di-  
vorce laws. South Dakota is a sort of  
divorce haven, and a fellow feeling  
makes her wondrous kind.

A Southern paragrapher wrote "John  
D. is a nice man." The operator got the  
spacing wrong, and it came out "John D.  
is an ice man." Which proves the truth  
of the old saying, "Things said false and  
never meant off prove true by accident."

The Platt resignation rumor came out  
for an airing the other day, but was soon  
hushed back to cover.

Two Boston women went in surf bathing  
the other day when the thermometer was  
hovering around zero. None except those  
equipped with a Boston temperament  
would dare do that.

St. Louis has a burglar who seems to  
enter any other way than by the front  
door. "Raffles," beyond a doubt.

"A house-to-house search for a wife in  
St. Louis has the seeker in jail," says the  
St. Louis Republic. As it was his  
own wife he was seeking, it appears that  
St. Louis entertains some queer notions  
about things.

The courts have decided that the slot  
machines in the New York subway are  
all right. It is evident that the courts  
never played them.

A Pittsburg doctor claims to be able to  
tattoo a beautiful and bewitching blush  
upon the cheek of any maiden, no matter  
how faded. Pittsburg is one of the few  
cities, however, where a woman stands  
in need of a perpetual blush.

Kansas City is having a mighty struggle  
over the temperance question, and the  
town is rent and torn into factions. They  
are trying to decide whether the bars  
shall be allowed to stay open all night,  
or close from 2 to 5 a. m.

After all the fuss about the policy hold-  
ers' "rights," his "interests," and his  
authority to control by his vote, the same  
old crowds are to run the big life com-  
panies. Therefore, the only way you can  
get ahead of the company is the old way—  
take a policy and die right off.

It is said that \$500,000 will be spent to  
save Harry Thaw. The price named is  
immensely flattering to Harry.

## A LITTLE NONSENSE.

## ALL OVER.

A dosing of "ummies";  
A serving of snow  
Of gillanaceous nummies  
In hash and in stew.  
A doleful computing  
Of money we spent;  
At work we're back rooting—  
Christmas has went.

## Crowded Out.

"Johnny, where is your mechanical en-  
gine?"  
"Pop's got it."  
"How about your automatic tripham-  
mer?"

"Uncle Bill won't let me have it."  
"Your Japanese top?"  
"Uncle Jim's playin' with that."  
"Well, you seem to be in the way in the  
nursery. Guess you'd better go into the  
library for awhile."

## Usually Is.

"Pat."  
"What is it, son?"  
"What do they mean by a holy show?"  
"A New York sacred concert, my boy."

## The Athletic Class.

No more the rush,  
The Christmas crush  
For Jane and Sue and 'Mandy.  
'Tis over now,  
And all avow  
Jul-jitsu came in handy.

## Holiday Fiction.

"My dear, I only had one ill' small  
drink."

## Verse and Reverse.

"Wouldst buy a little lay" the poet  
asked, "so I for some inclement day  
might lay a little by."

## A Slow Next.

"It sure takes all the holiday spirit out  
of a fellow."

"What does?" inquired the other half  
of the sketch.

"To get caught in a barber shop behind  
a guy that wants a shave, haircut, singe,  
facial massage, hot towels, and 'tonic rub-  
bers'."

## THE INNOCENT BYSTANDER.

## THE NAKED KING.

They have stripped a king of his king-  
doms.

They have left him bare of his kingly  
pride.

He has naught to-day such as kings pos-  
sess.

Save a realm that reaches by far and  
wide.

Save a palace here, and a palace there,  
And an army tame to the trumpet call,  
And a castle high and a garden fair,  
And a noble and seepier, and crown-  
that's all.

For the king stands forth in the blazing  
sun

As a naked soul at the judgment seat,  
And up his conscience, on by one  
Do the stinging shafts of the vengeance  
beat.

And he hides himself in the palace dim,  
And he cringes now in the stately hall,  
For his kingdom has been torn from him,  
He has left his robe and his crown—and  
all.

And he cannot hide in the deep of night,  
For the eyes that see are the eyes that  
perceive

Through the veil of dark with a searing  
light  
That is grim and chill, that is bold and  
true  
And he shrouds himself in his ermine  
stuff  
And he paces slowly along the wall,  
But he knows for kings it is not enough—  
Just the crown and robe and the ring  
and all.

And the courtiers laugh and the courtiers  
praise,  
But they cannot keep from his burning  
eyes

All the curses flung through the nights  
and days,  
And the hissing words that his bare soul  
hears.

And the sob and sigh of the anguished  
heart,  
And the ceaseless moan of the babes  
that crawl

May never, never be held apart  
By jeweled robe and the crown, and  
all.

They have stripped a king of his king-  
doms.

They have bared a king of his kingly  
pride.

For his trafficking in a land's distress  
They have torn the pride from his once  
great name—

And he hides himself in the palace dim,  
In a palace tomb, in an ermine pall,  
For his royal pride they have stripped  
away

Save the tawdry throne and the crown—  
and all.

## LITTLE HENRY'S MEMORANDA.

Unkel Bill says most of us can sit down  
and make a whole lot of good resolutions  
for everybody else.

Old Mister Green says mebbe quittin'  
chevin tobacco would make a better man  
of him, but at his time of life he isn't  
going to chase the bubble reputashun.

Pa says he quit four bad habits last  
January and immediately adopted eight  
new ones, so he isn't going to reform any  
more.

My sister's beau still looks like a man  
in a deep study. My Unkel Bill says no  
doubt he is tryin' to figure out what to do  
with the present my sister made for him.

Pa says in spite of the optimists and  
pessimists there was the average number  
of sunny days and rainy days this year.

Unkel Bill says the contrasts of life is  
shown when a dry goods house sends you  
the bill for your Christmas presents, and a  
happy New Year card along with it.

WILBERT NESBIT.

## Tribute to Robert E. Lee.

From the Outlook.

The time is not distant when in every  
place where the statues of heroes are  
placed for remembrances and for in-  
spiration the figure of Robert E. Lee will  
stand among his peers; when the cities  
of the North will set his effigy in public  
places, and tell his story to children in the  
schools. The time is not distant when  
the image of Lincoln will touch the heart  
of every man of Southern birth with a  
sense of his human greatness, his human  
tenderness, his human wisdom, and mon-  
uments to his noble memory will rise on  
Southern soil; for he was the truest friend  
the South had in its darkest days. In  
such a spirit, the optimists and the pessi-  
mists are finally reconciled and the  
world is moved forward into the light of  
a happier day.

## L'ENVOI.

(Apologies.)

When Earth's last Slipping is finished and  
the crowd has dwindled away,  
When the last wild scramble is over, subdued  
the cry and the fray,  
We shall rest, and, Gee, we shall need it,  
For the rest—no sweet—no regret! None that  
I know—thats clear.

Then all, yes, all, shall be happy; we shall sit  
by the fire and be glad,  
And forget the awful havoc wrought in the  
glad Yuletide.

We shall know our nuts and candy, and down  
the laughing thought  
Of the coin we bought for useless things—of  
the junk we went and bought.

But no one shall whisper of it, for each one shall  
fold the shame,  
We shall know that each went dippy, and dippy  
folks ain't to blame!

And each shall swear by the mag's gods that  
it wasn't their real intent.

—Milwaukee Sentinel.

## PEOPLE OF NOTE.

## Gaines Says Roosevelt.

Representative John Wesley Gaines, of  
Tennessee, one of the staunchest Demo-  
crats in the land, and an uncompromising  
opponent of the third-term idea, is con-  
vinced that the Republicans will renoun-  
ce President Roosevelt in 1908. Mr.  
Gaines bases this belief upon the talk he  
hears among his Republican colleagues in  
the House. In their private and semi-  
confidential conversations he declares that  
the majority of them express the judg-  
ment that as the situation exists to-day  
President Roosevelt is the only man who  
could save their party from overwhelming  
defeat two years hence. Mr. Gaines at-  
tended the National Deep Waterways  
Convention in the West several weeks  
ago. He traveled West on the five promi-  
nent Republican members of the House,  
no two of whom were from the same  
State. Every one of them, he says, de-  
clared that unless Mr. Roosevelt is nomi-  
nated their party will stand no show  
against William Jennings Bryan, who, in  
the opinion of Mr. Gaines, is certain to be  
nominated by the Democrats without op-  
position. The Tennessee statesman is an  
admirer of the equal and even sur-  
prise that the Republicans should force the  
nomination upon Mr. Roosevelt. The Demo-  
crats would have a much harder fight to  
defeat him than he wants his party to  
face, for he is a powerful speaker and  
term issue might not be strong enough to  
head the people off from the President.

## A Statesman's Postmark.

It is said that Postmaster General Cor-  
telyou has the most extensive and the  
most valuable political scrapbook in the  
United States. Following his marked in-  
stinct of regarding every detail of affairs  
in which he is concerned with great care,  
Mr. Cortelyou for ten years has been clip-  
ping from newspapers, magazines, &c.,  
articles of every description on public  
men and measures, and these he has pre-  
served in convenient form for reference.  
It is further stated that he has made no-  
tations on every scrap thus pasted in his  
books, and these notations are more in-  
teresting than the subjects to which they  
pertain. For example, he is said to have  
penciled "true," "partly true," "untrue,"  
"a lie," "a lie," on newspaper and  
magazine articles in his scrapbooks deal-  
ing with subjects which at the time of  
publication were of great concern to the  
public.

## Knox a Great Reader.

Senator Knox, it is believed, subscribes  
regularly to more magazines, newspapers,  
and other periodicals than does any other  
man in public life. He receives through  
the mails every month every popular  
monthly magazine published in the United  
States, and receives daily most of the  
daily newspapers of Pittsburgh and Phila-  
delphia, besides the morning papers of  
Washington and those of the cities of New  
York and Baltimore. In addition to these  
sources of information and entertainment,  
he is a subscriber to nearly every weekly  
of both parties in Pennsylvania. He is an  
early riser, and manages to skim through  
the most of the morning papers, that  
reach him soon after daylight, before  
breakfast. When he returns home in the  
evening he glances through such papers  
as have been delivered at his residence  
before he retires. He reads the day's work  
when the house is quiet at night he takes  
up his magazines